

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2468
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
INS VIRAAT
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Navy has of late critically examined the durability and service fitness of the sole aircraft carrier-INS Viraat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the period for which this flagship of Indian Navy is likely to continue in active service; and
- (d) the future plans for acquiring of manufacturing warships for replacements and augmentation of Naval fleet?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a)to(c) : A study group has been constituted to explore the feasibility of extending the service life of Indian Naval ship Viraat till 2012. The study group has recommended that extension of the service life of the ship upto 2012 is possible subject to certain repairs being undertaken in addition to routine periodic maintenance.

(d) Warships are inducted in the Navy for replacement and augmentation of Naval Fleet. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and international security environment. It will not be in the interest of National Security to divulge the details of the replacement and augmentation of Naval Fleet.